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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. GILLMOR].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 6, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable PAUL E. GILLMOR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Enable each person, O God, who labors in this place to sense more clearly the high honor and distinct privilege it is to have the opportunity of serving the people of our Nation. Give us, we pray, O God, a new spirit of responsibility to see how our deeds and our commitment can help strengthen our national heritage as we seek to be good stewards of the rich resources of the land. Let us build to make strong; let us work to heal our divisions; let us discover accord where we can; let us respect each other in all the great moments of life and let us work together to express our unity in heart and mind. This is our earnest prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. SHIMKUS]

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SHIMKUS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. McDevitt, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2367. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a cost-of-living adjustment in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of such veterans.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed bills and concurrent resolutions of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 714. An act to extend and improve the Native American Veteran Housing Loan Pilot Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to extend certain authorities of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to services for homeless veterans, to extend certain other authorities of the Secretary, and for other purposes;

S. 1377. An act to amend the Act incorporating the American Legion to make a technical correction;

S. 1378. An act to extend the authorization of use of official mail in the location and recovery of missing children, and for other purposes;

S. Con. Res. 61. Concurrent resolution authorizing printing of a revised edition of the publication entitled "Our Flag";

S. Con. Res. 62. Concurrent resolution authorizing printing of the brochure entitled "How Our Laws Are Made"; and

S. Con. Res. 63. Concurrent resolution authorizing printing of the pamphlet entitled "The Constitution of the United States of America".

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain ten 1-minutes on each side.

IN MEMORY OF ANDREW TAYLOR

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, last month Andrew Taylor, a 4-year-old boy from Springfield, IL, succumbed to a brain tumor and lost his life. Many Members may remember Andrew.

As a 3-year-old he received national attention when he became a hero by saving the life of his grandmother. Iva Taylor had fallen and lay in a pool of blood when Andrew called for help on a cellular phone. Andrew, 3 years old at the time, placed a pillow under his grandmother's head and told her, I am going to take care of you. Then the young boy waited until help arrived.

One year ago in July, when the Springfield community learned of Andrew's brain tumor, they rallied to help his family with the mounting medical expenses. Many community members and organizations came forward to help ease the burden of his mother Lisa, a single parent, and to make Andrew's life as comfortable as possible. On July 4 of this year, his brain tumor was diagnosed inoperable. In October, our little hero passed away. As a father of a 4-year-old myself, the story of Andrew touches me tremendously. My thoughts and prayers are with his mother and family.

PASS FAST TRACK AUTHORITY

(Mr. DAVIS of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the House is scheduled to vote on fast track legislation to provide this President with the same negotiating authority that every President has had since 1974 in this country. Opponents argue that the debate is about jobs. That is exactly what the debate is about. This is a debate about whether we are going to continue as a country to enjoy the benefits of further exports that provide high-paying jobs in our country.

Fast track legislation has enabled the Congress and the President to work together since 1974 as the public expects us to do, to take advantages of opportunities around the world, to use our prowess as a country, our competitive spirit, our resources to prevail in the world economy. If we do not take advantage of the opportunity to renew fast track authority tomorrow, we will lose a very important opportunity.

Yesterday I met with a worker from my hometown who came up here to tell me that his job and the jobs of his sons were at stake unless we renewed fast track authority. He was speaking on behalf of countless workers around the country who expect us to do the right thing.

When we go to vote tomorrow, let us keep in mind the jobs around the country that are at risk and the future jobs we can provide for our children, and let us pass fast track authority.

REPEAL THE IRS CODE

(Mr. BLUNT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House did something that every single observer 2 weeks ago and a month ago said was impossible, we turned the tables on the IRS to where citizens are protected; where taxpayers will have new taxpayer rights; to where, if people lose an IRS case, they have to pay, but if they win that IRS case, the Government has to pay. The resources of the Government are no longer overwhelmingly on the side stacked against taxpayers.

But Mr. Speaker, the real villain is not the IRS. We want to change the IRS as we know it. The real problem is the IRS Code. We need to repeal that Code. We need to start over again. We need to give the American taxpayer a fair deal, a safe deal, a simple deal, something they understand. The only way to do that is to repeal the Code. We need to do that when we get back into this Congress next year.

VOTES ON QUESTIONS OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM NEXT SPRING

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recall to the Members of this body that last weekend the Speaker of this House indicated there would be a vote on campaign finance reform next spring. But that raises many questions. For example, when next spring? We need a vote as early as possible.

It raises the question of what kinds of bills. I urge all Members of this body to insist on a bipartisan bill and bipartisan bills to bring to the floor in order to vote on campaign finance reform.

We know where the Republican leadership has been on this issue. The leadership has said we need more money in politics. We do not need to ban soft money, we need to take off all the limits on contributions to individual candidates. That is the wrong approach. We need more controls on contributions in this country, we need less money in politics, and we need to do that by working together with the other side.

The people back home want less money in politics. The people back home know that every voter, every contributor, every person who wants to participate in this system is being discouraged by the very large sums of money given to the national parties. We need to ban soft money, we need tighter disclosure on issue ads, and we need a vote early next spring.

We will talk a lot less about campaign finance reform if the Republican leadership gives us a vote.

THE UNITED NATIONS SHOULD NOT BLAME THE UNITED STATES FOR CASTRO'S FAILURES

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the United Nations once again voted to condemn the United States embargo on Cuba, demonstrating that when it comes to standing for freedom and human rights on the island, the United Nations members are on the side of the oppressor, rather than in support of the victims of the Castro dictatorship.

The vote should come as no surprise, because for decades the U.N. has coddled the Cuban dictator, Fidel Castro. We must force Castro to lift the embargo that he has on freedom and democracy in Cuba. When will there be free elections? When will Cubans be free to express their opinions?

A serious problem also is the Clinton administration's unwillingness to lobby our allies to support our Cuba policy. Unfortunately, the administration's inaction should be expected, given its refusal to enforce the Helms-Burton law, which was overwhelmingly approved by this body just 2 years ago. An embargo to support democracy for Haiti, an embargo to support democracy for South Africa, but when it comes to Cuba, the United Nations pre-

fers to hypocritically flirt with Castro. Blame the United States for Castro's failure? Shame on the United Nations.

FAST TRACK IS A JOB LOSER FOR AMERICA'S WORKERS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, to pass fast track the President said he will expand job retraining and unemployment counseling by \$1.2 billion. Unbelievable. The reason is very simple: More Americans will lose their jobs on yet another fast track.

To be more specific here, fast track is a loser, a job loser for American workers. What are we retraining these workers to do? How many more pantyhose crotch closer jobs are really out there, Mr. Speaker? Beam me up.

It is time to stand up and stop this madness. American workers do not want unemployment compensation, they do not want retraining, they do not want trade adjustment assistance. They want to keep their jobs and take care of their families.

IRS REFORM AND THE BUREAUCRATIC TAX CODE

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the IRS reform bill passed yesterday, which is an important first step in the battle to overhaul the current tax collection system in this country. However, this victory must be viewed with a little cautious optimism.

Let us not forget that when the President of this country was confronted with the Senate finance hearings that last month exposed the incredible abuse of power, which seems, by the way, to be the way of business over at the IRS, his first reaction was to defend the IRS. Incredible, stupefying, the American people thought, that this President's first reaction was to say, things really are not that bad.

He criticized the Republican tax reform plan. Of course, that was until he saw the American taxpayers were having nothing to do with his shrill criticism, because they have known for years that the IRS operates through heavy-handed tactics, sloppiness, and a lack of accountability. Any agency that allows bureaucrats no accountability will, over time, abuse its power.

The IRS reform package passed yesterday 426 to 4. It will inject real accountability to the IRS. Let us get rid of this bureaucratic, selfish Tax Code.

NO MORE TAXPAYER DOLLARS FOR EXPENSIVE FISHING EXPEDITIONS

(Mr. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1